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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

4 October 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Huntington Beach – Investigators Probing Cause of Major Offshore Oil Spill

(U) Federal and state investigators on Monday were probing what caused some 126,000 gallons of crude oil to leak into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of southern California. The oil appeared to come from a production platform operated by Beta Offshore, a California subsidiary of Houston-based offshore crude oil producer Amplify Energy Corporation. Officials deployed 2,050 feet of protective booms, which help contain and slow the oil flows, and about 3,150 gallons had been recovered on Sunday. SOURCE: 4 October 2021, Reuters

(U) Los Angeles - Police Shoot Man Armed with Knife After He Allegedly Stabbed Woman

(U) A man armed with a knife was shot and wounded by Los Angeles police Saturday after allegedly stabbing a 19-year-old woman in her abdomen, authorities said. Officers were approached by the stabbing victim, who directed officers to the suspect, a man in his 30's. The suspect was later taken to a hospital with a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. A knife was recovered at the scene. The woman who was stabbed was also taken to a hospital for treatment and was last reported in stable condition. SOURCE: 2 October 2021, Los Angeles Times

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Ohio – Pharmacy Chains Face First Trial Over US Opioid Epidemic

(U) Cleveland – The first trial of four large pharmacy chains over the deadly US opioid epidemic was set to begin on Monday, as two Ohio counties seek to convince jurors the companies are responsible for flooding their communities with addictive pain pills. Lawyers for the counties and companies will deliver opening statements to a federal jury in Cleveland, where thousands of similar lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies, drug distributors, and pharmacies are pending. More than 3,300 cases have been brought largely by state and local governments seeking to hold the companies responsible for an opioid abuse epidemic that US government data shows led to nearly 500,000 overdose deaths from 1999 to 2019.

SOURCE: 4 October 2021, Reuters

(U) Oklahoma – Alleged Kingpin Charged with Methamphetamine Distribution

(U) Fleetwood – A 13-count federal indictment was unsealed charging Luis Alfredo Jacobo with leading a continuing criminal enterprise that brought an estimated 2,000-pounds of methamphetamine into the Northern District of Oklahoma and southwestern Missouri for redistribution. Jacobo, using his Mexican sources of supply and Bakersfield as a base of operations, is alleged to have directed and organized a methamphetamine enterprise that consisted of at least three distribution conspiracies with three separate groups of individuals in Northeast Oklahoma and Southwest Missouri.

SOURCE: 2 October 2021, KZRG

(U) Texas – Man Sentenced for Plot to Destroy a Data Center in Virginia

(U) Fort Worth – A Texas man who plotted to blow up a data center in Virginia was sentenced to 10-years in federal prison. Seth Aaron Pendley, 28, was arrested in April after attempting to obtain an

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explosive device from an undercover FBI employee in Fort Worth. He pleaded guilty in June to malicious attempt to destroy a building with an explosive.

SOURCE: 1 October 2021, US DOJ

(U) Virginia – US Charges Canadian Man, Alleging He's an ISIS Fighter, Propagandist

(U) Alexandria – US prosecutors charged a Saudi-born Canadian man for aiding the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), alleging he tossed grenades in battle and worked with propagandists who publicized the beheading of hostages including US journalist James Foley. The Department of Justice described the man, identified as Mohammed Khalifa, as a "leading figure" in the English-language media unit of ISIS. The department said Khalifa narrated English-language recruitment videos and was a battlefield fighter before he was captured in 2019 by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, a militia group that controls parts of Syria. He was recently arrested by the FBI and on Saturday, charges against him were unsealed in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

SOURCE: 4 October 2021, Reuters

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan – Taliban Reports ISIS-K Cell Destroyed After Mosque Bombing

(U) Kabul – The Taliban say they have destroyed an ISIS-K cell responsible for a deadly bombing at a mosque in Afghanistan's capital over the weekend. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement that the group carried out a counterattack on the cell late Sunday. The bombing earlier on Sunday occurred during a memorial service for Mujahid's mother and reportedly killed at least two people and injured several others outside the Eid Gah Mosque in Kabul.

SOURCE: 4 October 2021, The Hill

(U) Burkina Faso – Militants Kill 12 Soldiers, Injure Five in Attack

(U) Yirgou – Militants killed at least 12 Burkina Faso soldiers and injured five others in an attack in the north of the country. The attack on the military detachment took place near the town of Yirgou, in the center-north Sanmatenga province, early on Monday. The death toll could climb, one of the security sources said. Attacks linked to al-Qa'ida and ISIS have surged across Africa's Sahel region, killing thousands and displacing millions across Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.

SOURCE: 4 October 2021, Reuters

(U) Cyprus – Israel Accuses Iran of Cyprus Attack Plot After Suspect Arrested

(U) Nicosia – Israel accused Iran on Monday of orchestrating an attempted attack against Israelis in Cyprus after police on the Mediterranean island said an armed individual had been arrested. Iran swiftly denied the accusation. "This was a terrorist incident directed by Iran against Israeli businesspeople living in Cyprus," Matan Sidi, spokesman for Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, said in a statement.

SOURCE: 4 October 2021, Reuters

(U) France – Authorities Arrest Teen for Planning to Attack School and Mosque

(U) Rouen – A teen was arrested for planning to attack a high school and a mosque, media reports said Saturday. French daily Le Parisien said the 19-year-old, who the newspaper called "Simon," planned his attack at the high school where he was a student and a nearby mosque in the Seine-Maritime region in the northwest of the country. It said there were 20 knives, at least three guns and 20 notebooks named after Hitler's book, Mein Kampf, or My Struggle, at Simon's house. It said Simon planned the attack because he was repeatedly sexually assaulted and harassed by classmates at a young age, and he had a list of 30 people targeted. Simon also accused the government of not fighting "radical Islam" adequately in his plea to police, said the report.

SOURCE: 3 October 2021, AA.com

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(U) Rwanda – Authorities Arrest 13 People Suspected of Plotting Terrorist Attacks

(U) Kigali – Rwandan police said on Friday they had arrested 13 people suspected of plotting "terrorist" attacks in the capital Kigali and paraded them before the media. The suspects were arrested with bomb-making materials including explosives, wires, nails, and phones. "Investigations have revealed that the terror cell worked with Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)," Rwandan National Police said, referring to a suspected jihadist group active in the east of the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). SOURCE: 1 October 2021, Africa News

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